

William Crawford to George Washington, November 12, 1773, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

SPRINGGARDIN Novr. 12th 1773

SIR

I Received yours of July 27th Septemr 25th and 26th [in] one of which you blame me something in Regard to not Discovering those Lands nearly Opposite to the other Surveys on the Kanhaway, the two bottoms below the mouth of Porketalin I saw my self, but the land on Porketalin I did not see but sent the men I had hired to serch and see what sort of Land there was Whilst I was Runing the Other Side but they Diseved me and told me there was no Land worth taking and sence has went on the same and maid som small improvement with the intend to hold them, but has Left them sence I Survayd the Land those 2 Bottoms below the Porketalin when I Survayd the Rest, seemd to be much Overflowd but not much more than other Bottom Was at that time nor dose any of the Kanhaway bottoms seem to have any signs of Overflowing more then Common sence that time nor from all Accounts they never was so sence any person I can hear of ever was Equinted with the Country, som Large Freshet has bin in the River Last Spring but none by many feet so High as that

As to your Chance in your Lots of Land I think them much the best on the hole River from one end of the Surveys to the other, and those Gentlemen seem a good deal shagereend on the vewing them after there Lots was Laid of, as there front on the River was not over

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a Mile and half the most of them and Run back almost five mile and you in Chief of your Survey s have all bottom as also Doctor Crages¹ Land none in that County is so good as your Land and his Land

You Each have they Advantegue of Cabins I beleve on every five hundred Acres of your Land on ye Ohio Several of those Person ho had improved those Land com to me this fall and on seeing they Patent of those that went to Devid there Land Quit and went of in serch of Land for them Selves I indeavioured to Lease them som of your Land on the Ohio but never cold get any one to offer taking upon any tearms any of you or any of the Gentlemens Land The Reason those people set down they told me was that Colo Croghan on [l]y of the Tr[a]ders told them the Officers and solders cold never hold one foot of the Land and farther told them that I had noe orders from the Governer to survey any Land on the Ohio it was only a skeem betwen you and my self

The only Chance you have to get Land settled is to get som of your People near whare you Live to settle on it upon some lay or other, or bring up som hand and set them to work and Clear som Land and then you may Rent them for som thing and I beleve that will be the shurest way to improve your Land and with the Least Expenche, Several Person is waiting for your Lands Relapsing ho intends to fall on it imediatly should you com in the Spring please to Let me now, and also what number of hands and I will Provid you with Every thing in my Power such as vesels for to cary Down your people

Sir what I wrot you Relating [to] the uper Survey in the Great Kanhaway I think you have not apprehended me in what I wanted, there is the full Quantity of Land of 200000 and 600 Over and above, besides that Survey, I did [not] mean you should alow me any that should be the solders Property

Sir in my Last Letter to you I wrote you that Lord Dumore had promisd me that in case the new Government did not take place before he got hom he would patent them Lands for me, if I would send him the Draft of the Land I Surveyd. on the mouth of the Little

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Kanhaway; now as my Claim as an officer cold not includ the hole, if you will Joyn as much of your Officers Claim as will tak the hole Survey, and you shall think it nessesary, if you will, you may Depend I will make any Equil Devesion you shall propose: I told Lord Dumore the true state of the matter

Your Letters came to my hands not till the 15 [mutilated] and then I was ingaged with the Gentlemen hew was a going Down to Devid there Land. I Spook to Captn Bullet and he has promist me a District of Survaying and has Promised me that he will wait on you on his way Down the Country and he has maid a survey he intends [mutilated] you, som he maid for him self, he seems to want [mutilated] Court your intrust much at this time, he has Se [covered by seal] which he says you shall have Choyce as you will see [covered by seal] your self he can inform you more fully

I hope to have the Pleashure of your Company Down the River this Spring I will go with you as far Down as you Please, these will be enough to prevent any Endiens doing any hurt to us

Should you com com soon as you can and I will be Ready

I am Sir your most Huml Sarvant W . . CRAWFORD

1 Craik?